



The Barnesville Lantern

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Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path (Psalm 119:105).

The Pastors' Spotlight

"I urge, then, first of all, that requests, prayers, intercessions and thanksgiving be made for everyone – for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness. This is good, and pleases God our Savior, who wants all men to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth" (1 Timothy 2:1-2).

In this passage, the Apostle Paul expressed to Timothy that the first priority for believers is prayer. This admonition speaks to us even today as the Church ministers with love and compassion in the name of Jesus to all who need help or encouragement, taking the gospel of Christ to all people. The Church's mission is facilitated when fervent prayer is made on behalf of civil authorities. In Paul's day that was the Roman Emperor (Nero). Today, in the United States, those in authority include the president, his cabinet, Congress, governors, military leaders, elected state officials, and judges.

As Christians and citizens we sometimes feel isolated from those in authority and feel helpless in terms of influencing their decisions or actions. We should take heart, dust off our faith, and be emboldened to realize that our prayers for those leaders bring the very power and will of God to bear on them. How should we pray for them? Here is part of a very famous prayer by Clement of Rome for the emperor (c. 90 A.D.), *"...grant unto them, therefore, O Lord, health, peace, concord, stability, that they may minister the government... without failure...Direct their counsel according to that which is well-pleasing in thy sight...administering power in peace and gentleness with godliness, that they may obtain thy favor." (1 Clement 61)*

Please make prayer for our leaders a daily priority. This is the best way for us to help effect a quiet and peaceful environment for God's work, even in places experiencing war. God loves all people and wants them to know the truth.

During this July 4th celebration of our nation's birth, be sure to offer prayers of thanksgiving for God's providence and blessing in the creation and protection of this great nation.

God Bless,

Your Pastors

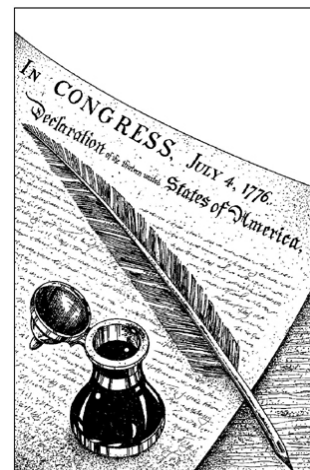


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Upcoming Events

- July 4** Independence Day, Church office closed
- July 11** Business Meeting
- July 14** Baptist Men's Meeting, 7:30 am; Sunday School Picnic at Black Hills Park, 4:00 pm
- July 23-27** Vacation Bible School
- July 29** Discipleship Training, 4:30 pm



"For the LORD is our Judge, the LORD is our Lawgiver, the LORD is our King; He will save us" (Isaiah 33:22).

The Pew Perspective

Lee Michael

What picture do you have of Samson? I always imagined him as looking like some sort of Viking warrior, his muscles having muscles of their own, but that's not how the Bible describes Samson in the book of *Judges*. Instead, we learn that Samson was a Nazirite—one who had taken a vow to serve God his whole life. The three rules of a Nazirite were abstaining from alcohol, never cutting his hair, nor touching the dead. Thus Samson didn't look like a heavyweight boxer, but was a regular-looking albeit shaggy-haired guy. So from where did his unusual powers come? Whenever Samson was about to perform some great feat against Israel's Philistine enemies, we read that, "...the Spirit of the LORD came upon him mightily..." (*Judges 14:19*). It was for this reason that the Philistines pressured Delilah to figure out the secret of Samson's strength—it certainly wasn't because of his physique. Samson's physical strength came from his relationship with the Lord. When he was separated from God by sin and disobedience, he was powerless against his enemies.

This dynamic is present in many situations in the Bible. In *II Chronicles* we see the effects of trusting God's strength versus relying on one's own strength in the cases of Kings Solomon and Rehoboam. The first relied on God, the second on his own abilities: "*Now Solomon the son of David was strengthened in his kingdom, and the LORD his God was with him and exalted him exceedingly*" (*1:1*), and, "*Now it came to pass, when Rehoboam had established the kingdom and had strengthened himself, that he forsook the law of the LORD, and all Israel along with him*" (*12:1*). Solomon, who relied on God, became a fabulously wealthy and successful king; Rehoboam, who rejected God in his life, presided over the breakup of the kingdom.

We too derive our strength from our relationship with God. Over and over again we find verses in the Bible that encourage us to lean on God for power, such as: "*The LORD is my strength and song, and He has become my salvation*" (*Psalms 118:14*); "*The LORD God is my strength...*" (*Habakkuk 3:19*); "*But truly I am full of power by the Spirit of the LORD...*" (*Micah 3:8*). We may never destroy God's enemies by the thousands or knock down temple pillars like Samson, but our power to do what is right, follow after God, practice spiritual disciplines like prayer and Bible study, and share the Gospel with friends and strangers does not come from within ourselves, it originates with the God we serve. Paul's prayer for the Church was that, "...He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with might through His Spirit in the inner man...to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; that you may be filled with all the fullness of God" (*Ephesians 3:16,19*). The Lord wants to use us for great things; He will empower those who love and serve Him to accomplish His will in our lives. Will you trust God to strengthen you with His Spirit?

Member of the Month: Randy Gilliam

- ★ Born: November 5, 1943 in Elkin, North Carolina
- ★ How long a BBC member: since October 2001
- ★ Church offices held: Associate Pastor, Singles Sunday School Teacher, VBS Director
- ★ How he first came to BBC: With parents in 1953; was baptized by Rev. Horace Dubois in 1954; called as Associate Pastor in June 2001
- ★ Favorite Hymn: "And Can It Be"
- ★ Favorite Pew: Front, right side (anywhere really)
- ★ Favorite Bible verses: *Psalms 19:1-14*
- ★ Age at baptism: 11 years old
- ★ Childhood church: Barnesville Baptist Church
- ★ Most famous person he's met: John Boehner, R-OH
- ★ Personal claim to fame: Privileged to work with students, parents, staff in education for many years
- ★ Most important historical event in his life: Destruction of the Berlin Wall
- ★ Farthest place he's been from Barnesville: Israel
- ★ Story on first name: Family wanted first initial of my Dad's name but didn't want it to be Rufus or Randolph
- ★ Most important technology invented in his lifetime: Earth-to-orbit-and-back space shuttle
- ★ Childhood hero: Davy Crockett
- ★ Hobbies: Family, reading, walking/running, music



July Birthdays

8 Nancy Cooley
9 Fred Bird
14 Penny Barton
18 Laura Musser
19 Brandon Cole
20 Joshua Madison
22 Douglas Cooley
23 Mary Yates, Emily Crowe
26 Virginia Magaha, Roy Musser,
Joe Yates
28 Jacqueline Cole
30 Sherri Marsh



Prayer Concerns

Annie Cooley
the men & women of the Upper Montgomery Co. V.F.D.
Margie Stream
Bud Baumbaugh, recovering from knee surgery
Pat Elam
David Gilliam, in U.S. Army basic training
Suzanne Neal, recuperating from surgery
Eileen Stull, June Ivey's mother
Gertrude Weston, David Bennett's grandmother
Emily Thorne
Dottie Shifflett, Dot Fowler's niece
Joseph Runkles
Jim McKamey, friend of the Gilliams
Chuck Ramsburg
Quipsa Mayorga, a Watkins Cabinet friend
Troops in Iraq: Michael Hayes; Jo Blalock's grandson Seth
Rogers and nephew Ken Kercival
Cancer patients: Doug Swank, Tim MacCarthy, Raymond
Enright, Norman Bishop, Raymond Money, Norman
Brandenburg, Janice Shull, Karen King, Rose Grant, Betty
Sica
Our missionary friends: Manuel & Cindy Batres (Guatemala);
Steve & Emily Ruffner (Campus Crusade)
Our nation and its leaders
All of our military men and women



*"The LORD is righteous in
all His ways,
Gracious in all His works.
The LORD is near to all who
call upon Him,
To all who call upon Him in
truth.
He will fulfill the desire of
those who fear Him;
He also will hear their cry
and save them"
(Psalm 145:17-19).*

Business Meeting Briefs

Report from the Monthly Business Meeting in June:

- A motion to begin a hand bell choir ministry was adopted.
- The Internal Administration Committee's motion to increase our insurance coverage was passed.
- The Church approved a motion to remove the two dead oak trees in the parsonage front yard.

Expected at the July Business Meeting:

- As of press time, there were no motions ready for action by the Church at the July 2007 Business Meeting.
- Due to the Independence Day holiday, the July Business Meeting will be held on Wednesday, July 11 instead of July 4.

COTCD Cartoon

CHURCH OF THE COVERED DISH by Thom Tapp



*"You can always tell when he's going to
preach from the book of Romans!"*

News You Can Use

Vacation Bible School coming soon! VBS at Barnesville Baptist Church will be held Jul. 23-27, 2007 in the



evenings from 6:30 until 8:30. The theme for this year's VBS is, "Game Day Central: Where Heroes Are Made". Contact Pastor Randy or Mary Yates if you would like to participate by serving in a

classroom, or in music, crafts, recreation, or snack. If you know anyone who needs transportation in order to come to VBS, please leave a message at the church office so we can make arrangements. This year's missions offering will be sent to Steve & Emily Ruffner, who are Campus Crusade missionaries serving with the International School Project. The Ruffners are no strangers to BBC, as we have prayed for and supported them for many years. They have also spoken to us before.



Health kits distributed. The WMU wishes to thank those who contributed enough supplies to make 27 health kits for migrant workers, prison inmates, homeless people, and seamen. The Barnesville WMU sent these kits to the state convention headquarters in Columbia, from where the kits were sent out to those in need.

Thanks for your support. Kitty Cooley, who took part in the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life, said this: "A very big thank you to all of you who donated to the American Cancer Relay for Life.



With your help I am so happy to report that I was able to raise over \$2,000. The whole event was such a rewarding experience for me and I invite all of you to come join this event next year. The grand total raised by all the participants in the Poolesville Relay for Life is now over \$150,000 and growing.

Contributions are being accepted through the end of August. Thank you for contributing to this worthwhile event and the support you gave me."



In the army now. David Gilliam, son of Pastor Randy & Sandy Gilliam, has joined the U.S. Army as an intelligence analyst, reporting for duty on Jun. 26. He will attend basic training at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri and AIT (Advanced Individual Training) at Fort Huachuca, Arizona. BBC held a

luncheon in David's honor on Sunday, Jun. 24 to wish him well in his new career.

Update on graduate. Amy Williams, who graduated from high school in May, will start at Tallahassee Community College in the fall. She then plans to attend Florida State after two years.

Third discipleship training series begins in July. Paul Meissner will be the first teacher in the third running of the fifth Sunday classes, which begin on Jul. 29 at 4:30 pm. The class is entitled, "Sharing the Lord's Blessing", and will feature video and workbook components. A pizza dinner will follow the lesson at 6:00 pm. The second class of the series, with a new teacher and new topic, will be held in September.

Fishing trip a fun time. Saturday, Jun. 16, was a beautiful day for children, Baptist Men, and church members to test their fishing skills at Cliff Neal's pond in Barnesville. A large number of sunfish were caught—everyone hooked fish, from the youngest to the oldest. Hamburgers and hot dogs, grilled by Todd Marsh and Randy Gilliam, were served for lunch. Thanks to Cliff Neal for the use of his pond, Virginia Magaha for donating the gas grill, and the Baptist Men for arranging this time of family fellowship.



Celebrate with the Sunday School. A Sunday School Picnic is scheduled for Saturday, Jul. 16 at 4:00 pm at Black Hills Regional Park. Please bring a covered dish to share. The Church will provide fried chicken and drinks. For those who have purchased tickets beforehand, a pontoon boat ride will depart from the dock below the nature center at 3:30 pm.

Best wishes to Lois Carroll and Jim Hogue as they wed on Saturday, Jul. 7 in Koffman Hall at Hood College in Frederick. Lois is the daughter of Ann Bennett.